

I work for a WISP (wireless ISP). We serve people who can't get broadband Internet access via DSL or cable.

What do they use the service for?

- Ordinary Internet usage
- Business needs. Several run businesses from their homes. High-speed access is vital to their success. Others telecommute.
- Education. Our subscribers network their childrens' computers to their broadband access, allowing them to use the resources of the Internet in their schooling.

We're not talking about "surfing the net." Broadband is becoming an integral component of America's industrial and educational infrastructure. WISPs are extending that infrastructure into underserved areas. We need your (FCC's) help to do this.

We are limited by various constraints, regulatory and economic, to the unlicensed 2.4GHz band. Unfortunately this is line-of-sight. You would not believe how much contour and how many trees are on the Texas prairie until you start trying to do line-of-sight radio out there. Even the smallest hills rear themselves into mountains when you are out doing site surveys at customers' locations.

We get around some obstacles by creating local "hotspots" with short-range 802.11 units. Much better than this would be access to NLOS (non-line-of-sight) frequencies.

If the FCC saw fit to free up the frequencies in question for unlicensed use, we'd be able to provide better service to our customers, be able to reach more people. That would be useful for them, good for us as a company, but most important, good for the future of America. I know this sounds like overblown rhetoric but it's mere truth when you look at what people are doing with broadband access. The more there is of it, the stronger we are --as a nation. The phone system doesn't reach everybody, cable doesn't either, satellite has its problems, and there are a lot of trees out there. Please give us the tools to bring more people onto the broadband net.

Thank you for providing this opportunity for citizen input.